

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2000-84-C - ORDER NO. 2006-607
OCTOBER 30, 2006

IN RE:	Application of PRTCommunications, LLC for)	ORDER APPROVING
	a Certificate of Public Convenience and)	AMENDMENT OF
	Necessity to Provide Local Exchange Service)	CERTIFICATE
	to Customers Located in Certain Areas of the)	
	State of South Carolina Currently Being)	
	Serviced by GTE South, Inc. n/k/a Verizon)	
	South, Inc.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“the Commission”) on the Application of PRTCommunications, LLC (“PRT” or “the Company”) to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to permit it to provide local exchange and exchange access service to customers located in certain exchange areas currently served by United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, Inc. (now known as “Embarq”). The Company presently possesses authority to provide local exchange and access services in certain areas served by Verizon (f/k/a GTE South, Inc.). PRT proposes to expand its service to those areas currently being served by Embarq in the portion of Embarq’s service area that is contiguous to the area served by PRT’s parent Company, Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. The area for which PRT seeks certification includes the following exchanges: Ware Shoals, Hodges, Greenwood, Ninety Six, Troy, Saluda, Chappells, Cross Hill, and Mountville. According to the Company, it will provide the same service, under the same terms and conditions, to customers located

in the expanded area as it is currently providing to customers in its presently certificated service area. Further, the Company states that it will offer the service at rates comparable to those of the incumbent LEC serving the area.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Docketing Department, the matter was noticed in newspapers of general circulation in the Company's service area. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were filed. Through Order No. 2006-492, we appointed a Hearing Examiner to hear the case. However, prior to the date of the hearing, PRT filed a Motion for Expedited Review of this matter, accompanied by the verification of James P. Wilder, a Company witness who verified the testimony that was filed by him on August 28, 2006. The Hearing Examiner continued the oral hearing in this matter so that this Commission could first consider the Motion for Expedited Review, along with the verified testimony.

We grant expedited review of this matter. After a review of the verified testimony, we approve the amendment of the Company's Certificate, and, therefore, we approve the Application as filed.

James P. Wilder, Chairman and President of PRT, described in his verified testimony the services that the Company proposes to provide, noted the geographic area that it seeks to serve, and testified as to the Company's technical, financial, and managerial resources to provide local exchange telecommunications services within the defined areas of South Carolina. Wilder stated that the Company seeks to expand its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity previously granted to serve customers located in areas of South Carolina presently served by Embarq that are contiguous to the

area served by PRT's parent company, Piedmont Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Wilder further testified as to the specific exchanges (stated above) that the Company wished to serve. Wilder concluded by stating that the public interest of the citizens of South Carolina will be served by granting the Application, and that the provision of service by the Company will not adversely impact the availability of affordable local exchange service in South Carolina. The new exchanges would be served under the same terms and conditions as those exchanges already served.

We have examined this matter and hold that the amendment of the Certificate should be granted, and the Application of PRT should be approved as filed. Order No. 2000-0498, dated June 13, 2000, found that the Company possessed the technical, financial, and managerial resources sufficient to provide the services in the areas originally requested by the Company. Order No. 2000-0498 at 6. We believe that this remains the case, and that an expansion of the Company's services into the exchanges in the Embarq area proposed is in the public interest. Accordingly, the amendment of the Certificate is granted and the Application is approved as filed.

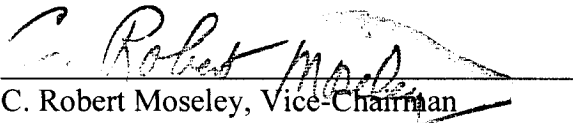
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:


C. Robert Moseley, Vice-Chairman

(SEAL)